

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-55. Cancelled.

56. (Currently Amended) A method of playing a wagering game on a gaming terminal, the gaming terminal being one of a plurality of gaming terminals, the plurality of gaming terminals being linked to a plurality of prize pools, the method comprising:

using a processor to conduct the wagering game, the wagering game having an outcome randomly selected from a plurality of possible outcomes, the plurality of possible outcomes including a first outcome and a second outcome, the second outcome being different from the first outcome;

displaying the randomly selected outcome on a display device;

increasing an amount of a first set of one or more of the prize pools in response to the randomly selected outcome being the first outcome, and increasing an amount of a second set of one or more of the prize pools in response to the randomly selected outcome being the second outcome, the second set being different from the first set, the first set of one or more prize pools being fixedly associated with the first outcome, the second set of one or more prize pools being fixedly associated with the second outcome; and

awarding one or more of the prize pools in response to the randomly selected outcome being a prize-pool award outcome.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 56, wherein the prize-pool award outcome is a first prize-pool award outcome and the plurality of possible outcomes also includes a second prize-pool award outcome, a first group of ~~one or more~~ a plurality of prize pools being awarded in response to the first prize-pool award outcome, and a second group of ~~one or more~~ a plurality of prize pools being awarded in response to the second prize-pool award outcome.

58-59. Cancelled.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the first set includes all of the plurality of prize pools, and the second set includes less than all of the plurality of prize pools.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein each of the plurality of prize pools are increased by a different amount in response to the randomly selected outcome being the first outcome.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein each of the one or more prize pools in the first set are increased by an amount that is randomly determined in response to the randomly selected outcome being the first outcome.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising receiving a wager amount for the wagering game, the first set of one or more prize pools being increased by an amount equal to or greater than the wager amount in response to the randomly selected outcome being the first outcome.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising receiving a wager amount for the wagering game, the first set of one or more prize pools being increased by a percentage of the wager amount in response to the randomly selected outcome being the first outcome.

65. (Currently Amended) A gaming system, comprising:
a controller;
a plurality of gaming terminals coupled to the controller, each of the plurality of gaming terminals having a wagering game, the wagering game having a plurality of symbols that indicate an outcome randomly selected from a plurality of possible outcomes, the plurality of possible outcomes including a first outcome and a second outcome, the first outcome being different from the second outcome;

a plurality of prize pools linked to the plurality of gaming terminals, one or more of the plurality of prize pools defining a first set and one or more of the plurality of prize pools defining a second set, the first set of one or more prize pools being different from the second set of one or more prize pools, the first set of one or more prize pools increasing in response to the randomly selected outcome being the first outcome, and the second set of one or more prize pools increasing in response to the randomly selected outcome being the second outcome, the first set of one or more prize pools being fixedly associated with the first outcome, the second set of one or more prize pools being fixedly associated with the second outcome; and

wherein one or more of the plurality of prize pools is awarded in response to the randomly selected outcome being a prize-pool award outcome.

66. (Previously Presented) The gaming system of claim 65, wherein the controller is used to increase the first set of one or more prize pools in response to the randomly selected outcome being the first outcome.

67. (Previously Presented) The gaming system of claim 65, further comprising one or more displays for displaying one or more of the plurality of prize pools.

68. (Previously Presented) The gaming system of claim 67, wherein each of the plurality of gaming terminals includes one of the one or more displays.

69. (Previously Presented) The gaming system of claim 65, further comprising a signage located adjacent to the plurality of gaming terminals, the signage displaying one or more of the plurality of prize pools.

70. (Previously Presented) The gaming system of claim 65, wherein the first set includes all of the plurality of prize pools, and the second set includes less than the plurality of prize pools.

71. (Previously Presented) The gaming system of claim 70, wherein each of the plurality of prize pools are increased by a different amount in response to the randomly selected outcome being the first outcome.

72. (Previously Presented) The gaming system of claim 65, wherein the prize-pool award outcome is a first prize-pool award outcome and the plurality of possible outcomes also includes a second prize-pool award outcome, one of the plurality of gaming terminals awarding a first group of one or more prize pools in response to the first prize-pool award outcome, and one of the plurality of gaming terminals awarding a second group of one or more prize pools in response to the second prize-pool award outcome.

73. (Previously Presented) The gaming system of claim 65, wherein the plurality of prize pools include a plurality of terminal-level prize pools, each of the plurality of terminal-level prize pools being associated with one of the plurality of gaming terminals.

74. (Previously Presented) The gaming system of claim 73, wherein the plurality of prize pools further include at least one bank-level prize pool and at least one wide-area prize pool, the bank-level prize pool being associated with a bank of adjacent gaming terminals within the plurality of gaming terminals, the wide-area prize pool being associated with gaming terminals that are remote from one another.

75. (Currently Amended) A gaming terminal, comprising:
a wager-input device for receiving a wager from a player;
at least one display for displaying a plurality of symbols that indicate a randomly selected outcome of the wagering game after the wager-input device has received the wager, the randomly selected outcome being randomly selected from a plurality of possible outcomes, the plurality of possible outcomes including a first outcome and a second outcome, the first outcome being different from the second outcome;

the at least one display further displaying at least one of a plurality of prize pools for the wagering game, one or more of the plurality of prize pools defining a first set and one or more of

the plurality of prize pools defining a second set, the first set of one or more prize pools being different from the second set of one or more prize pools; and

wherein the first set of one or more prize pools are increased in response to the randomly selected outcome being the first outcome and the second set of one or more prize pools are increased in response to the randomly selected outcome being the second outcome, the first set of one or more prize pools being fixedly associated with the first outcome, the second set of one or more prize pools being fixedly associated with the second outcome.

76. (New) The gaming terminal of claim 75, wherein the wagering game includes a plurality of symbol-bearing reels and a plurality of player-selectable paylines extending across the reels for indicating the plurality of possible outcomes, the first outcome being indicated by a first symbol combination along one or more of the plurality of paylines, the second outcome being indicated by a second symbol combination along one or more of the plurality of paylines,

wherein the first set of one or more prize pools is increased only in response to the first combination of symbols being along one of the paylines selected by a player, and the second set of one or more prize pools is increased only in response to the second combination of symbols being along one of the paylines selected by a player.

77. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the first set of prize pools is associated with a first group of gaming terminals, the second set of prize pools is associated with a second group of gaming terminals, the first group of gaming terminals being different from the second group of gaming terminals.

78. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein each of the first set of prize pools and each of the second set of prize pools is selected from the group consisting of a terminal level prize pool, a bank level prize pool, and a wide-area level prize pool.

79. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the wagering game includes a plurality of symbol-bearing reels and a plurality of player-selectable paylines extending across the reels for indicating the plurality of possible outcomes, the first outcome being indicated by a first

symbol combination along one or more of the plurality of paylines, the second outcome being indicated by a second symbol combination along one or more of the plurality of paylines,

wherein the increasing the first set of one or more prize pools requires the first combination of symbols to be along one of the paylines selected by a player, and the increasing the second set of one or more prize pools requires the second combination of symbols to be along one of the paylines selected by a player.

80. (New) The gaming system of claim 65, wherein the wagering game includes a plurality of symbol-bearing reels and a plurality of player-selectable paylines extending across the reels for indicating the plurality of possible outcomes, the first outcome being indicated by a first symbol combination along one or more of the plurality of paylines, the second outcome being indicated by a second symbol combination along one or more of the plurality of paylines,

wherein the first set of one or more prize pools increasing in response to the first combination of symbols being along one of the paylines selected by a player, and the second set of one or more prize pools increasing in response to the second combination of symbols being along one of the paylines selected by a player.

81. (New) A method of playing a wagering game on a gaming terminal, the gaming terminal being one of a plurality of gaming terminals, the plurality of gaming terminals being linked to a plurality of prize pools, the method comprising:

using a processor to conduct the wagering game, the wagering game having an outcome randomly selected from a plurality of possible outcomes, the plurality of possible outcomes including a first outcome and a second outcome, the second outcome being different from the first outcome;

displaying the randomly selected outcome on a display device;

increasing an amount of a first set of one or more of the prize pools in response to the randomly selected outcome being the first outcome, and increasing an amount of a second set of one or more of the prize pools in response to the randomly selected outcome being the second outcome, the second set being different from the first set;

awarding a first plurality of prize pools in response to the randomly selected outcome being a first prize-pool award outcome; and

awarding a second plurality of prize pools in response to the randomly selected outcome being a second prize-pool award outcome, the first plurality of prize pools being different from the second plurality of prize pools.

82. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein the wagering game includes a plurality of symbol-bearing reels and a plurality of player-selectable paylines extending across the reels for indicating the plurality of possible outcomes, the first outcome being indicated by a first symbol combination along one or more of the plurality of paylines, the second outcome being indicated by a second symbol combination along one or more of the plurality of paylines,

wherein the increasing the first set of one or more prize pools requires the first combination of symbols to be along one of the paylines selected by a player, and the increasing the second set of one or more prize pools requires the second combination of symbols to be along one of the paylines selected by a player.

83. (New) A method of playing a wagering game on a gaming terminal, the gaming terminal being one of a plurality of gaming terminals, the plurality of gaming terminals being linked to a plurality of prize pools, the method comprising:

using a processor to conduct the wagering game, the wagering game having an outcome randomly selected from a plurality of possible outcomes, the plurality of possible outcomes including a first outcome and a second outcome, the second outcome being different from the first outcome;

displaying the randomly selected outcome on a display device;

increasing an amount of a first set of one or more of the prize pools in response to the randomly selected outcome being the first outcome, and increasing an amount of a second set of one or more of the prize pools in response to the randomly selected outcome being the second outcome, the second set being different from the first set, the first set of prize pools is associated with a first group of gaming terminals, the second set of prize pools is associated with a second group of gaming terminals, the first group of gaming terminals being different from the second group of gaming terminals; and

awarding one or more of the prize pools in response to the randomly selected outcome being a prize-pool award outcome.

84. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein each of the first set of prize pools and each of the second set of prize pools is selected from the group consisting of a terminal level prize pool, a bank level prize pool, and a wide-area level prize pool.

85. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein the wagering game includes a plurality of symbol-bearing reels and a plurality of player-selectable paylines extending across the reels for indicating the plurality of possible outcomes, the first outcome being indicated by a first symbol combination along one or more of the plurality of paylines, the second outcome being indicated by a second symbol combination along one or more of the plurality of paylines,

wherein the increasing the first set of one or more prize pools requires the first combination of symbols to be along one of the paylines selected by a player, and the increasing the second set of one or more prize pools requires the second combination of symbols to be along one of the paylines selected by a player.